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***Kernan announces grants to support new jobs,  
training of more than 500 workers in Madison***

*Governor also tours site of historic restoration at former AME Church*

Gov. Joe Kernan traveled to Madison this morning to announce state support for Grote Industries, which is making investments that will result in skills training for existing workers, as well as the creation of new jobs.

“As the economy continues to rebound, it is more important than ever for Hoosier companies to invest in their workforce,” Kernan said. “Through these state grants and training programs, Grote Industries can train existing workers and attract qualified new employees in order to stay competitive in its field.”

Kernan awarded a \$72,880 Skills Enhancement Fund grant through the Indiana Department of Commerce to retrain 425 incumbent workers. The grant was awarded as a result of Grote’s plans to make \$4.25 million in capital improvements at the Madison facility.

Jefferson County’s Grote Industries was also one of the first companies to enroll in the [Indiana@Work](#) program. With two requests totaling \$5,880, the company was able to assess the skills of 87 individuals and to profile its storekeeper and assembler positions. The skill assessments and job profiles will help the company find qualified applicants to potentially fill future job openings.

“More and more, [Indiana@Work](#) is proving to be an important resource for Hoosier businesses as they work to strengthen the skills of their workers and meet the demands of an ever-changing economy,” said Kernan.

Headquartered in Madison, Grote is a world leader in vehicle safety systems, providing a wide range of components for original equipment manufacturers and the vehicle aftermarket. Products include lamps, emergency lighting, flashers and forward lighting as well as wiring harnesses, coil cords, turn signal switches, reflectors and conspicuity tape, back-up alarms, mirrors and mirror bracketry. The Madison facility employs 700 people.

“We appreciate the State of Indiana's support of our company's efforts to train our workforce at the Madison facility so that we can compete on a global basis. This is certainly encouraging to us as we build a better Indiana-based company,” said Bill Grote, chairman and CEO of Grote Industries.

The Indiana Department of Commerce awards SEF grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. The agency also awards IDGF grants to local government entities to help meet the infrastructure needs of new or expanding business. Eligible projects must be related to economic development and have the potential for job creation.

Indiana@Work, a joint effort between the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to nearly 14,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested more than 220 job profiles since its inception in January.

While in Madison, Kernan also toured the former African Methodist Episcopal Church, which received restoration funding through a \$362,713 Community Focus Fund grant awarded by the Department of Commerce to the City of Madison earlier this year.

The former historic church, built circa 1849, is one of the oldest church buildings of its kind in the United States. When fully restored, the 1,200-square-foot building will have the potential to serve as a memorial to Madison's role in helping slaves reach freedom through the Underground Railroad. It also will serve as a repository for artifacts that document and celebrate the area's African-American heritage.

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